

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 249, 379, 540, 574, 759

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, before the next amendment, I do. Thank you. Enrollment and Review reports LB 379 to Select File. Senator Raikes, an amendment to LB 574 and LB 249; Senator Bromm to LB 759. (Legislative Journal pages 1678-1679.)

Mr. President, the next amendment to LB 540, Senator Mines, AM1660. (Legislative Journal page 1584.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Mines, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR MINES: Mr. Speaker, do I have to? (Laughter) Do I have to follow that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker, colleagues. I appreciate, first of all, the opportunity. Secondly, I appreciate this body's indulgence in...as a new member and as a freshman, I have...I struggle, I think, as all of our class does, to understand the process of legislative budget making. And I would just like to publicly thank the senior leadership of this body for their advice and patience, and will ask their indulgence as we continue through the rest of this session. And if I may at this time address Senator Schrock on the term limit debate that we had. Senator Schrock suggested that in six years I might be Speaker of this body. And I would simply say to Senator Schrock, you should be very afraid. (Laughter) Having said that, Mr. Speaker, my amendment, AM1660, is intended not to get in the way of Senator Raikes' bill. But what it does is it allows cities and counties to deal with the cuts that this body has implemented to various state aid programs that affect them. The amendment has two parts. First, it addresses the ability of local governments to exceed spending limits. Secondly, the amendment allows local government the ability to increase budgets by the amount that...by the total amount of allowable growth. Very simply, the local government has difficulty managing their financial affairs because in some cases revenue from property and/or sales tax cannot be used, simply because they're restricted from...by spending limits. The amendment allows political subdivisions other than schools the authority to exceed spending limits by a supermajority vote of the local governing body. That is three-fourths, or 75 percent. That is a 75-percent majority vote of that body. Current law limits the amount of restricted funds that a government agency other than a